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Tax center offers assistance Community receives two-month filing extension

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

All servicemembers and their family members stationed overseas getting a refund automatically receive a two-month extension on filing their federal income taxes.

However, base tax center officials do not advise them to wait until they are near the June 15 deadline the government grants them.

Servicemembers and their families who owe money on their tax returns have a deadline of April 15, while those who will receive a refund can wait until June 15 to file. The extended deadline applies only to filing a federal tax return, said Staff Sgt. Courtney Johnson, non-commissioned officer in charge of the base tax center. Repaying the government means observing the April 15 deadline.

The base tax center is a volunteer-staffed organization that assists base members and their families with filing federal and state income tax returns for free. The center here helps about 1,300 people each year.

"The majority of people we see come with complicated returns that include items like rental properties," said Sergeant Johnson. "People also come to match their self-prepared or electronically-

prepared returns against what we process. First-time filers often come to the center too."

The tax center is on the first floor office area of tower 3002 in the west housing area. Community members filing a 1040EZ can walk in Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. All other filers must make an appointment during the center's operating hours: Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The center is closed on Fridays for administrative purposes.

Volunteer income tax assistants are trained to advise people on their filing options, and to file returns correctly from Internal Revenue Service employees prior to the start of the tax season, which runs from January to June 15 for those stationed overseas.

About 20 volunteers are working at the center this year.

"We ask for our customers to please be patient as we work to get returns filed," said Ms. Gardner, tax center volunteer. "This is a volunteer service, and it can get busy here."

Community members need to bring "everything" with them, said Sergeant Johnson, including this year's W-2s, social security cards,

tax information forms from educational and financial institutions, property documents, and their 2004 tax return information.

"If in doubt, bring it with you," she said.

Electronic filing, or e-filing, is the popular choice of customers. Returns are processed and funds transferred in five to seven days. Customers can opt to send their returns by mail, which takes about 30 days for processing and funds transfers.

If a servicemember or a family member files a return incorrectly, the IRS can take several different actions, said Sergeant Johnson. Members may see amended W-2s the following year that reflect the debt owed to the government. The IRS may also disallow credits or cut allowances from a member's return. Members will have to repay interest on their debts for the time frame they owed money.

Anyone who received a W-2, which means they earned wages during 2005, or people who run home businesses that earned more than \$400 last year must file tax returns.

For more information, call the base tax center during its operating hours at 225-4926 or 225-4927.

Looking for an 'Outstanding'



photo by Airman Laszlo Babocsi

Airmen from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department search the cargo area of a smoke-filled C-130 Hercules for survivors and the simulated fire's source while being inspected by the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General team. For more photos, see page 5.

Base senior NCO announced as best in 5AF at annual ceremony

Airmen, civilians from Air Force bases in Japan gather to honor, recognize top performers in numbered command

By Marine Corps. Master Sgt. Terence Peck
U.S. Forces-Japan Public Affairs

Five airmen and two civilians received the 2005 5th Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year awards during a ceremony at the Enlisted Club here.

Among the winners was an Airman from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Master Sgt. Michael Hullender was named the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Sergeant Hullender was recognized for mentoring 17 Airmen and 30 Japanese nationals in three sections supporting 1,100 vehicles worth more than \$75 million dollars. In maintaining the vehicles, his leadership helped the sections obtain a 93 percent mission completion rate, which is the best in the Pacific Air Forces. His Flight Readiness Training pro-

gram helped certify 21 Airmen in vehicle decontamination and Unexploded Ordnance/Environmental Condition of Property processes.

Winners from other bases in 5AF were: Airman 1st Class Mark Hughes of 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, who received the Airman of the Year award for broadening his flight's capabilities by earning licenses on seven response vehicles and completing 136 hours of a national emergency medical technician course. He finished first in his class with a 94 percent average.

Tech. Sgt. Richard Snider received the NCO of the Year award. He cleared the kill-zone and radioed for a medical evacuation after surviving an Improvised Exploding Device detonation while on a convoy. His actions saved the lives of three Airmen. While leading another convoy to a new forward op-

erating base, Sergeant Snider was ambushed by aggressors associated with Al Zarqawi. Again he led his team out of the kill-zone. He is the NCO in charge of the development section at the 18th LRS at Kadena.

Senior Master Sgt. Graham Smith from 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena received the First Sergeant of the Year award. He began two three-week leadership courses that taught 425 combat leaders. He led 40 and built 16 committees as the First Sergeant Council president.

Capt. Michelle Pryor was chosen as the Company Grade Officer of the Year. She is a KC-135 instructor pilot and Chief of Training for the 909th Air Refueling Squadron at Kadena. She commanded Coronet 963 during a typhoon evacuation and delivered Pacific Command's historic support of three B-52s to Operation Enduring Freedom. Responsible

for training 116 aircrew members, including operations group and wing leadership, she ensured they were 100 percent mission ready.

Masako Segawa was awarded the Category I Civilian of the Year. Ms. Segawa, who works for the 35th Medical Support Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan, reviewed file plans for 24 offices, identifying, tracking and closing numerous discrepancies. As a member of the Misawa Toastmasters Club, she assisted other Misawa-based Japanese nationals in learning English.

Randall Kimura received the Category II Civilian of the Year award. Mr. Kimura of the 18th CES at Kadena received recognition for translating more than 50 Japanese shop manuals and updating 230 items for the recurring work program where he found and corrected 77 deficiencies. He organized troubleshooting classes, educating 103 members.



Master Sgt. Michael Hullender, 374th LRS.

'Steady, steady ...'



photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmine Reif

Staff Sgt. Sean Villagomez, deployed from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron to the 386th Expeditionary CES, helps take down a tent after a new hardened billet opens for servicemembers at the deployed location where he is located.

730th AMS recognized for excellence, accomplishments during previous year

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 730th Air Mobility Squadron can take pride in their squadron accomplishments this year, thanks to team and individual efforts.

Ten awards were captured by the 730th AMS under the 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, with an eleventh award coming from the 715th Air Mobility Operations Group.

"I am very proud of our individual and section award winners," said Col. Stuart Haire, 730th AMS commander. "These awards were truly a total team effort."

Members throughout the 730th AMS contributed to the unit earning the 15th EMTF Best Overall Safety Program and Best Air Mobility Control Center Flight awards. The squadron's 354 members have a safety record of 809 on-duty and 535 off-duty reportable mishap free days.

The squadron also worked with other service branches and countries to support the rescue of a Russian submarine crew trapped on the Pacific Ocean floor, coordinated delivery of cargo for Southeast Asia relief efforts, medivac missions and the facilitation of Japan Air Self Defense Force Global War on Terrorism efforts, resulting in 149 Operation Enduring Freedom missions and 506 tons of cargo moved.

In the individual categories, Senior Airman Michelle Jeffries was recognized as the 15th EMTF Outstanding Airman of the Year. The winner of the 15th EMTF Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award was Tech. Sgt. Jamie Vanoss.

Capt. Michelle Moreno received the 15th EMTF Outstanding Company Grade Officer of the Year award. The 15th EMTF Air Mobility Command Aircraft Maintenance Company Grade Officer of the Year is Capt. Chad Oba.

Individual awards weren't limited only to the military members. Three civilian employees were also recognized as the best in their categories.

The 15th EMTF Outstanding Local National Employee of the Year award in the non-supervisory position is Ms. Namiko Mitsuhashi. The winner of the 15th EMTF Outstanding Local National Employee of the Year award is Mr. Hidenao Nakanishi.

Wrapping up the individual awards is Mr. Norzell Harris, recognized as the 15th EMTF Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award winner and the 2006 Air Force Association Outstanding Civilian Program Manager of the Year.

The final group award goes to the entire 730th AMS, for achieving recognition as the 715th Air Mobility Operations Group Best Fitness Program.

Air Force Personnel Center launches new Web site design this week

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force Personnel Center is giving its customers an opportunity to ensure the new AFPC Web site answers their personnel questions.

The new searchable site is accessible via a link on the current AFPC homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> and customers are encouraged to provide feedback as the center continues to develop the Web site.

This site is an integral part of the Per-

sonnel Services Delivery Transformation, which will improve, streamline, and modernize the way personnel actions are accomplished.

"I want to give our customers the opportunity to provide input into this process," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "Their feedback will be an invaluable tool in our Web site development and the success of the PSD transformation."

The new Web site uses a question and

answer format to explain personnel actions and programs. It is based on a system of frequently asked questions and will always give AFPC customers an opportunity to provide specific feedback, even after the official launch.

Customers can provide input one of two ways. They can e-mail general comments by clicking the feedback button on the new site's front page. Also at the bottom of each question and answer, customers can provide feed-

back directly to the AFPC subject matter expert for that topic.

"Our goal is to make the Web a one-stop shop for personnel questions," said General Przybyslawski. "However, in the rare instance that it does not, the customer can call or e-mail a representative at our contact center for further assistance."

The new AFPC site officially launched Wednesday.

(Courtesy of AFPC)

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Analysis of tanker fleet alternatives released: WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The RAND Corp. released an executive summary March 7 detailing its findings from an analysis of alternatives study to replace the Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker fleet.

The report states, "A fleet of medium to large (300,000 to 1,000,000 pounds maximum gross takeoff weight) commercial derivatives is the most cost-effective alternative for KC-135 recapitalization."

Electronic initiative gets critical information to commanders: NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN) – An initiative designed to electronically transmit intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information to commanders is currently being tested here at Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2006.

With non-traditional ISR services, information will flow directly from aircraft to the Air and Space Operations Center and forward-deployed locations.

Nihon-go now

⇒ Travelling takes a long time in Tokyo.

Tokyo de idousuru nowa jikan ga kakaru.
(too-kee-yoo deh ee-doo-soo-loo noh-wah jee-kahn gah kah-kah-loo.)

⇒ Do you like to take the train?

Densha ni norukoto wa suki desuka.
(deh-n-sh-ah nee noh-loo-koh-toh wah soo-kee dess-kah.)

AD

PACAF Band visits Muslim countries

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia recently sent two of its small premier bands to Singapore and to Bangladesh.

Final Approach, the detachment's eight-person show and rock band, played numerous venues for the Asian Airspace Show in Singapore, while six-strong Pacific Brass toured schools in Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh.

Final Approach performed for a variety of people while supporting the airspace show. From international ambassadors to a small, local elderly home, the band performed at nearly half a dozen locations between Feb. 19 and 26.

"The most memorable for us was the performance we did at the home for the aged," said Staff Sgt. Jamie Gilley, band vocalist. The group played and visited for a few hours, but the impression they

made on the elderly Muslim community there was lasting.

"When we started playing a Tom Jones melody, it was almost like they lost their minds they enjoyed it so much," said Sergeant Gilley. "We even saw an 81-year-old woman wearing a burka get up and start dancing."

In Bangladesh, Pacific Brass did a nine-day tour of schools in the towns of Dhaka and Chittagong, reaching more than 20,000 students and teachers in late February and early March.

"We played a broad spectrum of music including classic American marches, jazz and rock," said Tech. Sgt. Keith Fitzgerald, noncommissioned officer in charge of Pacific Brass. "One school packed all their students and teachers in to see our performance."

Students and teachers alike enjoyed seeing the American band members in their uniforms, which is a rare occasion for

Bangladeshis, said Sergeant Fitzgerald.

"The students were also very interested in what American students are like," he explained. "They asked many questions about what America is like, if American kids go to school and do homework, and what sports they play."

The bands agree that these trips to Bangladesh and Singapore had a significant impression on the audiences in these dominantly Muslim countries.

"Stereotypes from both sides were definitely taken down," said Sergeant Gilley. "We got to meet one another, and found out that we are nothing like what we had thought."



courtesy photos

Final Approach performs on a bay dock in Singapore during a recent visit. Below, Tech Sgt. Keith Fitzgerald of Pacific Brass plays trombone at a local school in Bangladesh in February.



Base exchanges match prices for customers as 'last line of defense'

DALLAS – The Army and Air Force Exchange recently introduced a program that would ensure that, in the event AAFES doesn't have the lowest price, authorized customers always receive the best price.

The "We'll Match It!" program works in two ways. First, if customers see a price differential of less than \$10 they can tell the cashier who will match it on the spot. Customers who report a price difference of greater than \$10 dollars need only to bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price. In either case the competitor's item, of course, must be identical to the item in the AAFES store.

"AAFES is committed to having low prices," said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Debra Pressley. "'We'll Match It' is simply our last line of defense. After AAFES conducts national surveys and associates from the store level compare local prices, the customer has this program to make sure no one missed anything."

"We'll Match It!" promotes AAFES as a price leader with a pledge that retail stores will match competitors' current, local price on any identical stock assortment.

In addition to this same-day pledge, AAFES also offers a 30-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from AAFES and subsequently sold at a lower price by AAFES, or another local competitor (excluding unauthorized dealers and warehouse clubs).

There are exceptions to the "We'll Match It!" program. Except for the Exchange Catalog and www.aafes.com, stores cannot accept challenges from any catalog or website.

Other exclusions include "gimmick" promotions, warehouse clubs, special order automotive parts, gasoline, automotive labor and service, double and triple coupons, clearance items, flat percentage off items, and vending items.

(Courtesy of AAFES Public Affairs)

AD

Airmen doing more with less?

How troops should respond to force transformation, budget cuts

By Maj. Robert Jackson
374th Maintenance Squadron

Pentagon senior leaders just completed the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review and 2007 Department of Defense budget.

The results of this in-depth QDR analysis have challenged the Air Force to make changes in our force structure, business process management and recapitalization plans.

Last month, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne announced a proposal aimed at reducing the overall Air Force (including active duty, Reserve, Guard and Civilian) end strength by 40,000 people between now and 2011.

However, during this same period, Airmen will still be expected to maintain a challenging deployment schedule in support of our nation's Global War on Terror. Airmen at home station will tackle the challenge of sustaining in-garrison flying proficiency training and home station ops with less people and aircraft.

To date, our Airmen have done an amazing job of not just surviving, but thriving, in this very dynamic and challenging environment. While dazzling us with their resilience under pressure, many of our troops have grown accustomed to an old familiar phrase, "Do more with less."

This is one of my least favorite phrases because I find it misleading and inaccurate. If you do not change processes and procedures, it is impossible

to consistently do more with less resources for any significant sustained period. It is simply unrealistic.

Some might argue, "But this is what we're being asked to do." To which I would say, "We are not being asked to do more with less. Instead, we're being asked to transform – to fundamentally reshape our operating environment and how we do business."

Transformation planning guidance defines transformation as, "... a process that shapes the changing nature of military competition and cooperation through new combinations of concepts, capabilities, people and organizations that exploit our nation's advantages."

Transformation has been a favorite "buzz word" for several years now. However, for most of our troops it has only been an academic or intellectual concept. But the reality for our need of transformation has never been more apparent.

Right now, Air Force senior leadership is laying out broad guidance and making tough decisions which are accelerating the pace of unit-level transformation.

For example, in the Air Force maintenance community, our senior leaders are exploring smarter ways to maintain higher mission-capable rates on an aging aircraft fleet, while simultaneously reducing costs and manpower requirements.

This challenge is forcing

maintainers to consider new ways of using the civilian and contract workforce and driving us to consider new organizational constructs.

Right here at Yokota, many squadrons are experiencing the challenges of a rapidly decreasing workforce in such specialties as work group managers, personnelists and training managers. Authorizations and accessions in these specialties will never go back to former manning levels. The end result will be a fundamental shift in how we execute unit-level administrative and support functions.

There are three key aspects to successful transformation of Air Force unit-level operations.

First, a strong commitment and sound methodology for continuous improvement is needed. In a recent Letter to Airmen, Secretary Wynne discussed "persistent situation awareness in resource management" as a need for constant examination of our processes in order to recognize better ways of accomplishing the mission.

It doesn't matter what methodology you use to accomplish this "persistent situation awareness," you just need a common methodology that is understood by all. Some Air Force organizations have found great success using such methodologies as: LEAN, Six-sigma, Theory of Constraints or Business Process Reengineering. All of these methodologies have inherent strengths as well as potential weaknesses.

However, the key point to understand is that the methodology is simply a tool to help achieve your goals. We must always guard against equating the use of the tool as the end goal.

Second, for transformation to be successful, leadership must be willing to depart from things they are familiar with.

The focus must be on the end goal, the capability required, and the most efficient use of resources to achieve the goal. This might mean departing from familiar reports, briefings, meetings, policies, and procedures a leader may have grown up with. The leadership focus must be capabilities-based and goal-oriented. Anything that does not contribute to or detracts from that must be seriously reexamined and eliminated.

Finally, troops must understand they are empowered, and that Air Force leadership is counting on their initiative and ingenuity to carve out the details of the Air Force Transformation flight plan. Senior leadership sets the broad goals and vision. It's up to the troops to fill in the "meat" of transformation.

So don't be afraid to take action.

Go on the offensive.

Be a maverick.

Take the initiative to reshape your work environment and the way you and your people do business.

Understand that change is coming, whether you like it or not, but you have a choice. Use your creativity to find new ways of doing business that are good for you and your people. Or you can wait and have a "solution" handed to you from above. It has been my experience that when you wait to be handed a solution, you end up spending a great deal of time figuring out how to make it fit your working environment.

In the end, transformation is the only real way to "do more with less." Thankfully, we are blessed with the world's brightest and most talented Airmen.

I am confident our fine Airmen will boldly lead Air Force transformation into the future. My challenge to you is to seize daily opportunities for transformation.



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How to reach us

Editorial content is prepared by the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 315, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Phone: 225-8833

Fax: 225-4867

Mail to: 374 AW/PA, Unit 5078, APO AP 96326-5078 or send to: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil

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The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

Editorial staff

Col. Scott Goodwin

374th Airlift Wing commander

Capt. David Westover

Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Warren Comer

Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Ben Alumbaugh

Chief, Plans and Operations

Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

Superintendent, Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

Chief, Internal Information

Senior Airman Katie Thomas

Editor

Eight Co., Ltd.

Publisher

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E-mail: action.lines@yokota.af.mil

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

Col. Scott Goodwin

374th Airlift Wing Commander



DUI Prevention

Feb. 22 – March 14	0
Total DUIs in March	0
Total in 2006	3

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

**Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!**

Hitting the ground, *running ...*



photo by Tech. Sgt. Corey Clements

Above, Senior Airman Elifer Resurreccion, 374th Security Forces Squadron, responds to a high-risk traffic stop Monday.

Right, an aircrew from the 36th Airlift Squadron helps each other get into a life raft during an evaluation Monday.



photo by Airman 1st Class John Albea



photo by Tech. Sgt. Corey Clements

Top left, Staff Sgt. Angela Toon, 374th Mission Support Squadron, briefs Airmen at the Deployment Processing Line Tuesday.

Center, Staff Sgt. Steven Kuzel, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighter, gives oxygen to a simulated patient during a C-130 egress simulation Monday on the base flight-line.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Corey Clements

Bottom center, security forces Airmen and augmentees prepare for a simulated protest at the base's main gate near Fussa Monday. Airmen were trained on when and how to react to the protest.

Below, Senior Airman Steven Light, 374th Maintenance Squadron, checks the tire pressure on an in-checked liquid oxygen cart during cargo deployment function operations during the Operational Readiness Inspection here Monday.



photo by Airman 1st Class John Albea

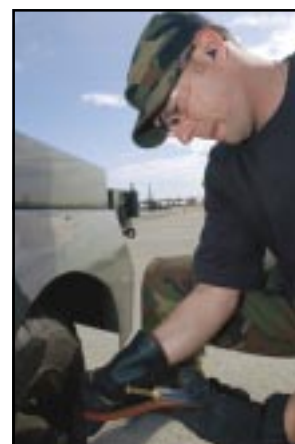


photo by Tech. Sgt. Corey Clements

AD

Off base

Plum Tree park festival: This well-known plum tree park in Tama, called Yoshino Baigo, is hosting its annual festival through March 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There are more than 25,000 plum trees in 120 different varieties. The park is a 15-minute walk from the JR Ome Line's Hinata Wada Station.

Hamura City's Flower and Water Festival: Hamura City's cherry blossom trees and tulips will be in bloom through April 23. The trees and flowers can be seen near Hamura Dam and Negarami-mae's paddy field. Parking costs 500 yen per day.

Fussa Sakura Festival: The cherry blossoms along the Tama River between Nagata Bridge and Mutsumi Bridge will be celebrated March 31 to April 9 with Japanese music, dances, parades, taiko drum performances and more.

Hamarikyu Onshi Teien: This traditional Japanese garden dating back to the Edo Period will be in full bloom and lighted April 1 to 16 to celebrate its 60th anniversary under the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it is a 15-minute walk from the JR Yamanote Line's Shinbashi Station. The cost is 300 yen for adults.

Jazz concert: The Hamura Lifelong Study Center is hosting a jazz concert by a local musician April 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It is a 15-minute walk from the JR Ome Line's Hamura Station. The cost is 500 yen.

Dance Dance Dance 2006: The Yutorogi Dance-Off is April 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Yutorogi Main Hall in Hamura City. Applications are now being accepted. Only the first 30 applicants will be accepted. Prizes include 50,000 yen for the contest champion. Dance styles include hip-hop, break dancing, free style and others. For more information, send a fax to Ms. Chiba at 042-570-6422.

Daihigan Temple exhibition: This famous Buddhist temple is displaying a nationally-known Buddhist statue to the public April 21 to 22. The temple is a 15-minute walk from the JR Itsukaichi Line's Musashi-Masudo Station.

On base

Movies

Today – *The Last Holiday*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *16 Blocks*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *The Last Holiday*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Hostel*, R, 7 p.m.; *16 Blocks*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

Sunday – *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, PG, 2 p.m.; *16 Blocks*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *16 Blocks*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Hostel*, R, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *16 Blocks*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Hostel*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Hospital change

The Internal Medicine Clinic is moving into new offices located within the Family Practice Clinic. This provides patients with closer access to the pharmacy, lab and radiology. It will open March 27 at its new location. Call 225-6264.

Play cancelled

The Yokota Players* have cancelled their production of "The Odd Couple." Look for more productions soon.

Bazaar

The annual Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club* Asian bazaar is April 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hangar 15. Volunteers are also needed. Call 227-5009 or e-mail YOSCBazaarVolunteer@yahoo.com.

Fiesta for families

Single parents and spouses with deployed spouses are invited to a fiesta at the Family Support Center March 24 beginning at 6 p.m. Call 225-8725.

Band competition

The Band of the Pacific-Asia is hosting its annual Young Artists Competition April 22 begin-

ning at 9 a.m. Applications are available at the Yokota Middle and High Schools. Applications must be turned in by April 3 at 5 p.m.

ORI after-party

An ORI after-party for Airmen and their families is March 24 at Hangar 15 beginning at 2 p.m. The party includes free food, drinks and entertainment.

MOPS

Mother of Preschoolers invites all mothers of newborns to age five to its monthly meeting Tuesday at the Traditional Chapel from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. Child care is available during the meeting. Call 227-3775.

Career Day

Yokota West Elementary School needs volunteers to speak during its annual Career Day March 31. Participants must prepare a 20-minute presentation. Call 225-7611.

SECAF calls

The Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne is holding calls for all Airmen at the Taiyo Recreation Center March 24 beginning at 9 a.m. Airmen must be in their seats no later than 8:50 a.m.

Scholarships offered

The Tokyo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority* is sponsoring scholarships for SOFA-status high school seniors throughout the Kanto Plain. Applications must be submitted by April 30. Call 227-3638 or 227-3834.

The Honshu Chapter National Defense Transportation Association* is offering scholarships for high school seniors. Applications are available at Yokota High School.

UMUC

The University of Maryland University College is holding registration for Term 4 classes Monday to March 31. Call 225-8922 or visit <http://www.asia.umuc.edu>.

Samurai Warriors



of the Week



Staff Sgt. Angie Strickland

Staff Sgt. Angie Strickland, 459th Airlift Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week exhibiting the Bushido qualities of a sense of justice and honesty, courage, self control and sympathy towards all people.

Sergeant Strickland is in charge of all squadron aircrew training assigned and attached to the 459th AS. She assists the Director of Operations, Scheduling and Readiness Training Section with automated training products. She effectively inputs audits, and monitors more than 500 training and flying events for 42 aircrew. She trains aircrew on COMSEC equipment and procedures ensuring the highest mission security.

Tanabata Dancers

The Tanabata Dancers* is a base group that learns and performs traditional Japanese dances across the Kanto Plain. Community members are welcome to join the group for its practices held every Friday at the Taiyo Recreation Center at 6:30 p.m.

Workshop

A workshop about autism and other behavioral disabilities is March 24 at Bldg. 316 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up by Wednesday at noon by calling 225-9993.

Hip Hop

The base chapel is hosting the "Attitude Determines Altitude" Outreach Conference about hip-hop music featuring G. Craig Lewis at the east chapel April 7 at 7 p.m., and April 8 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The event is open to the community. Call 225-7009.

Yokota Singles

All Yokota singles are invited

to a free dinner and Bible study beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. A free coffee and snack bar is also open every Friday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for all singles in the same building. Call 090-1107-2107.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

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“Quotes” & Things

“Dave Dravecky has now thrown 66 pitches through six innings. It doesn’t take a very smart guy to figure out that’s 12 an inning.”

Duane Kuiper

Outdoor Rec: The Outdoor Recreation Center is offering the following snowboarding and skiing trips: Shiga Kogen from March 18 to 19; Tsugaike on March 22; Niseko from March 23 to 26; Myoko Suginohara on March 25; Okutadami on April 5. The Niseko trip costs \$595 for SOFA status and \$750 for non-SOFA status Call 225-4552.

Karate: Free karate lessons are offered for ages six and older in the Natatorium’s aerobics room Saturdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 225-5880.

Half-marathon: Camp Zama is hosting a half-marathon, 5K and children’s race at Sagami Depot April 23. Call 263-5995.

Fencing: The Yokota Fencing group offers free fencing lessons at the Family Support Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.blacktigers.groo.us>.

American Diabetes Alert Day: Wednesday is American Diabetes Alert Day. Risk factors for diabetes include high blood pressure, a family history of diabetes, having diabetes during pregnancy, and having a baby weighing more than nine pounds at birth. Prevention measures include weight management and exercising most days a week. See the internal medicine clinic at the hospital for more information.

Academy outlines upcoming football season

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – A visit to Falcon Stadium by Notre Dame Nov. 11, a season-opening game at national power Tennessee Sept. 9 and conference home games against BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico and Utah highlight the Air Force football schedule, released March 2 by the Mountain West Conference.

The Falcons sandwich the opener with the University of Tennessee between open weeks on Sept. 2, parents weekend at the academy, and Sept. 16. Following the second bye, the Falcons play 11 consecutive weeks to include games on Thanksgiving weekend and the first weekend in December.

Air Force’s first home game isn’t until Sept. 30 against the University of New Mexico, which begins a three-game home stand. The team also plays Navy on Oct. 7 and Colorado State University on Oct. 12. This season marks the seventh time the Falcons and Rams have played on a Thursday. The Falcons then play at San Diego State University Oct. 21 before returning home to take on Brigham Young University Oct. 28.

Air Force plays three of its last five games on the road beginning with Army on Nov. 4 in West Point, N.Y. The team then hosts the University of Notre Dame Nov. 11 and the University of Utah Nov. 18 before closing the season with two road games. Air Force plays at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Nov. 24 and at Texas Christian University Dec. 2.

“The schedule is very exciting and challenging. The players and coaches are really looking forward to it with great excitement

2006 Air Force Falcon’s football line-up

Sept. 2	Open	Oct. 21	San Diego State
Sept. 9	Tennessee	Oct. 28	BYU
Sept. 16	Open	Nov. 4	Army
Sept. 23	Wyoming	Nov. 11	Notre Dome
Sept. 30	New Mexico	Nov. 18	Utah
Oct. 7	Navy	Nov. 24	UNLV
Oct. 12	Colorado State	Dec. 2	TCU

and anticipation because we expect to be a much-improved football team from a year ago,” said Air Force head coach Fisher DeBerry.

“Two early open dates gives us more time to develop and mature into a competitive football team. We have some concern over having only one home game in September, but we have three of four home games in October when we usually enjoy outstanding football weather,” the coach said.

“I think it’s also important to have a string of four of five home games in the middle of the schedule. I believe our conference has more parity than any other, so it will be important to us to play these games in Falcon Stadium. With great fan and cadet wing support, we think Falcon Stadium is as tough a place to play as there is in America,” he said.

Playing 11 consecutive weeks is nothing new to the Falcons. Air Force played 10 straight weeks in 2001 and 2002 and 12

straight weeks in 1997. The Thanksgiving weekend game is the first since the team played at Hawaii on Nov. 24, 2001.

This season marks the ninth time in school history and the first since 2001 the schedule reaches into the first weekend in December. The Falcons played Utah in Falcon Stadium on Dec. 1, 2001, because of rescheduling caused by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The team also played in December in 1998 in Las Vegas against BYU in the conference championship game while a member of the Western Athletic Conference. This year’s meeting with TCU is the first regularly scheduled game in December since 1994 when Air Force defeated the University of Hawaii, 37-34, in Honolulu Dec. 3.

The Falcons open spring football practice March 13. The Blue-Silver Spring Game will conclude spring practice April 15 at Garry Berry Stadium in Colorado Springs.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

No. 13 seed Falcons go to NCAA tournament

The Air Force men’s basketball made its second appearance in the NCAA Tournament in the last three years when it faced ninth-ranked Illinois at Cox Arena in San Diego, Calif.

The Falcons (24-6) seemed to have slim hopes of making the tournament after dropping a 57-55 decision to Wyoming in the quarterfinals of the Mountain West Conference. However, Air Force gained the No. 13 seed and will play the fourth-seeded Illini in the Washington D.C. bracket.

Air Force advanced to the

NCAA Tournament in 2004, marking its first trip to the “Big Dance” since 1962. The Falcons lost to North Carolina, 63-52, in the first round.

Illinois (25-6), which tied for second place with Iowa in the Big Ten this season, lost to Michigan State in the Big Ten Tournament quarterfinals, 61-56, on Friday.

The winner of the Air Force - Illinois game will face the winner of the Washington - Utah State game on Saturday.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Academy)



courtesy photo

Air Force Academy guard Matt McCraw drives the baseline during the Mountain West Conference tournament.

THE OFFICIAL O.R.I. AFTER-PARTY

**BEGINNING AT 2 P.M.
IN HANGAR 15
- MARCH 24 -**

**FREE FOOD
& ENTERTAINMENT
FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY!**



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